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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/057,409 | 01/23/2002 | Maria Palasis | 104914.132US2 | 1618 |

28089 7590 05/18/2004

HALE AND DORR LLP
300 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

EXAMINER

SHUKLA, RAM R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1632

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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| APPLICATION NO. 10 CONTROL NO. 057409 | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|--|-------------|---|---------------------|

EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER

05062004

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

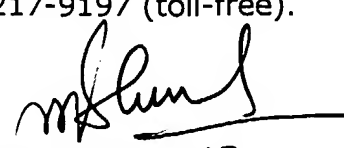
res The reply filed on February 23, 2004 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because: Applicants have not elected an ~~election~~ species as required by 37 CFR 1.143. Applicants have stated that a species election was not required since the elected group did not have species election. However, these arguments are not persuasive since MPEP requires response to every point raised by the Examiner (see MPEP 818). Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram R. Shukla whose telephone number is (571) 272-0735. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson, can be reached at (571) 272-0804. The fax phone number for TC 1600 is (703) 703-872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature, formal matters or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the William Phillips whose telephone number is (571) 272-0548.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ram R. Shukla, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1632


RAM R. SHUKLA, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER